

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 165803

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REMOVAL OF WORDS "FOR YOUR ACTION"
PRIOR TO START OF QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 8660
ETC..UNQTE

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USEC BRUSSELS CONAKRY
KHARTOUM LONDON MONROVIA PARIS FM ADDIS ABABA JUL 24
REPEATED

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 8660

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, ET

SUBJECT: IEG AND EC ASSOCIATION

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 4161

1. I HAVE NOTED WITH CONCERN USEC VIEW EXPRESSED REFTEL THAT ETHIOPIA LONG WITH LIBERIA, GUINEA, AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM ELIGIBILITY FOR EC SPECIAL PREFERENCES UNDER PRESENT FORMULATION OF USG "MODUS VIVENDI." I BELIEVE THAT ANY USG DECISION TO PRESS THIS POSITION, PARTICULARLY AT THIS JUNCTURE, COULD WELL PRODUCE ADVERSE IMPACT ON US INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH THIS POST CAN ONLY SPEAK FOR ETHIOPIA, OUR POSITION WOULD APPEAR HAVE GENERAL RELEVANCE FOR ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

2. MAJOR IMPETUS BEHIND CURRENT AFRICAN DRIVE FOR COMPREHENSIVE NON-DISCRIMINATORY RELATIONS WITH EC IS APPEAL OF AFRICAN UNITY. THIS APPEAL IS DIRECTED NOT ONLY TO EUROPEANS BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY TO AFRICAN STATES AS UNDERPINNING FOR COMMON FRONT. ONLY INCIDENTALLY DOES THIS AFRICAN UNITY DRIVE SERVE US INTERESTS AS IT CONSTITUTES MOST FAVORABLE PROSPECT AT PRESENT FOR DISMANTLING REVERSE PREFERENCE SYSTEM. SHOULD USG NOW INTRODUCE NEW PROPOSAL FOR IN EFFECT BREAKING UP AFRICAN UNITY, WE CAN EXPECT TO SHARE IN HOSTILITY AFRICANS FEEL TOWARD LL EXTERNAL FORCES WHICH SEEK TO DIVIDE THEM. EUROPEAN INTERESTS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CURRENT AFRICAN APPROACH WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME US PARTICIPATION IN THEIR DISCOMFORT.

3. SECONDLY, FRENCH AND EC COMMISSION PRESSURE FOR MAINTENANCE DISCRIMINATORY "FREE TRADE ZONE" CONCEPT APPEARS BASED ON PROSPECTS FOR USG CHALLENGE THROUGH GATT OF ANY NON-DISCRIMINATORY PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM WHICH MAY BE CONSTRUCTED. SO FAR, AFRICANS DO NOT APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO THIS ARGUMENT. HOWEVER, IF USG SHOULD USE GATT PRINCIPLES TO EXCLUDE AFRICAN COUNTRIES FROM PREFERENTIAL STRUCTURE, WE MUST ASSUME "FREE TRADE ZONE" ARGUMENT WILL ACQUIRE ADDED WEIGHT.

4. THIRDLY, IEG INCLUDED AMONG MAJOR AFRICAN LEADERS PRESSING FOR ABOLITION REVERSE PREFERENCES, AS AFRICAN COUNTRY NOTED FOR "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH US IN HIM'S WORDS, ETHIOPIA HAS GIVEN US UNSOLICITED AND UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCES THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ETHIOPIA WILL NEVER ACCEPT REGIME DISCRIMINATORY TO US INTERESTS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IEG CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND WHY ITS "BEST" FRIEND WOULD WISH TO HARM ETHIOPIA'S INTERESTS WITHOUT ANY APPARENT BENEFIT TO USG. PRACTICAL IEG INTEREST IN EC ASSOCIATION IS TO OBTAIN EQUAL ACCESS TO EC MARKET FOR ITS COFFEE EXPORTS.

5. I CONCLUDE THAT USG INTERESTS FAVOR NOT TAKING ANY

POSITION FOR OR AGAINST IEG PARTICIPATION IN BRUSSELS
MEETING. IF AFRICANS SHOULD ACHIEVE NON-DISCRIMINATORY FRAMEWORK
FOR THEIR FUTURE RELATIONS WITH EC, USG COULD THEN TREAT
IEG PARTICIPATION IN ANY SUCH FRAMEWORK AS "PRAGMATIC"ISSUE.
IF AFRICANS SHOULD FAIL AND PROSPECTS FOR SPREAD OF
DISCRIMINATORY SYSTEM ARISE, USG WOULD REMAIN FREE PROTECT
ITS LEGAL GATT RIGHTS. WE WOULD EXPECT IEG WOULD BOTH
UNDERSTAND AND MIGHT WELL SUPPORT LATTER
CONTINGENCY. ADAIR

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